**ITEM**

**STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT**

**Date of Meeting**: January 29th, 2024

**Student Trustee:** Mia Liu

**Topics Discussed Most Relevant to Students within the VSB:**

In this report, I will be providing an overview of recent initiatives VDSC has been working on during a busy year-end and new year.

Back in December, VDSC concluded the 2023 CANley Cup fundraiser. Of the many participating schools, Prince of Wales came third, Van Tech earned second, and Point Grey placed first in terms of the cans-per-person ratio used to calculate the winner. With over 213K cans raised, the CANley Cup is a win for all, made possible by our collective efforts in raising money and non-perishable foods for community organizations across Vancouver. The next major VDSC initiative is the Sister School Switch (SSS), where participants from various VSB secondaries are randomly paired to spend a day at each other’s schools and foster interschool connections. This year’s SSS is now in the planning process and will take place in March.

On December 11th, 2023, VDSC officially opened the Student Leadership Grant Application, which will close on February 15th, 2024. Following the grant’s opening, VDSC has advertised this opportunity through school announcements and informational videos, which have since accumulated over 18K views. As outlined in the Grant Application Package, projects successful in receiving the grant will join the VDSC event showcase in May, which will be planned in the upcoming months.

Over the past few general meetings, VDSC brought two discussion items forward for student feedback.

The first item concerns the role of School Liaison Officers (SLOs) in VSB schools. While some students observed SLOs supporting student clubs and giving presentations about their role in the school environment, many still found there to be a lack of awareness about SLOs’ function and responsibilities. In the past year, VDSC has already published informative posts about the program on Instagram that are available for all students to view. Encouraging student councils to better inform students about their respective SLOs, VDSC is developing suggestions for how to facilitate this process through mediums such as Student Council social media platforms.

The second discussion item is the accessibility and cleanliness of school bathrooms. Through breakout group discussions, VDSC received feedback that reflected a lack of supply refills, broken facilities being closed down for extended amounts of time, and the need for students themselves to respect and protect school facilities. VDSC is currently working with the facilities student representative to continue this discussion, hoping to identify potential routes for student consultation and advocacy on respecting bathrooms as valuable student spaces; VDSC also hopes to work with school Principals where there is a specific concern related to a facility or supply issue.

Finally, in welcoming February – celebrated as Black History Month – VDSC has brainstormed ways to promote Black History and enhance district values of diversity and inclusion. VDSC is excited to further ideas discussed at the last General Meeting and update the board on related endeavours in the near future.